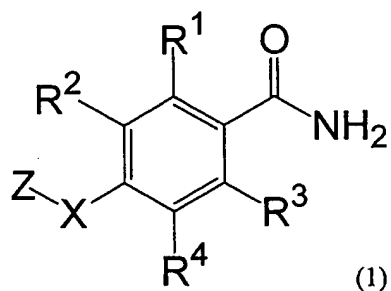


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A compound represented by formula (1):



wherein X is a single bond or a substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylene group (the -CH₂- group(s) of said lower alkylene group may be substituted by one or more groups which may be the same or different and are selected from groups represented by the formulas: -O-, -S(O)_n-, -N(R⁵)-, -N(R⁶)C(=O)-, -C(=O)N(R⁶)-, -N(R⁶)S(O)₂-, -S(O)₂N(R⁶)- and -C(=O)-, benzene ring and cycloalkane rings (the -CH₂- group(s) in said cycloalkane ring may be substituted by one or more groups which may be the same or different and are selected from groups represented by the formulas: -O-, -S-, -N(R⁷)- and -C(=O)-), and a combination(s) of any adjacent two carbon atoms of said lower alkylene group may form one or more double or triple bonds which may be the same or different);

Z is a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic heterocyclic group, or a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic heterocyclic group (these groups may be unsubstituted or may have a substituent(s));

each of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 , which may be the same or different, is a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic heterocyclic group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic heterocyclic group (these groups may be unsubstituted or may have a substituent(s)), a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a nitro group, a cyano group, a carboxyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkynyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxycarbonyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted acyl group, or a group represented by the formula: $-OR^9$, $-N(R^{10})R^{11}$, $-C(=O)N(R^{10})R^{11}$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{10})R^{11}$ or $-S(O)_mR^{12}$;

n and m are independently 0, 1 or 2;

R^5 (or R^5 s) and R^7 (or R^7 s), which may be the same or different, and are a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic heterocyclic group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic heterocyclic group (these groups may be unsubstituted or may have a substituent(s)), a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted acyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxycarbonyl group, or a group

represented by the formula: $-C(=O)N(R^{10})R^{11}$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{10})R^{11}$ or $-S(O)_mR^{12}$, independently, when it exists more than one;

R^6 (or R^6 s) and R^9 (or R^9 s), which may be the same or different, and are a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic heterocyclic group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic heterocyclic group (these groups may be unsubstituted or may have a substituent(s)), a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted acyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxycarbonyl group, independently, when it exists more than one;

R^{10} (or R^{10} s) and R^{11} (or R^{11} s), which may be the same or different, and are a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic heterocyclic group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic heterocyclic group (these groups may be unsubstituted or may have a substituent(s)), a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted acyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxycarbonyl group, independently, when it exists more than one, or R^{10} and R^{11} , when taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, represent a saturated 3- to 8-membered cyclic amino group which may contain other heteroatom(s) in the ring (said cyclic amino group may be substituted by one or more substituted or unsubstituted alkyl groups, $-S(O)_mR^{12}$ groups or $-OR^9$ groups); and

R^{12} is a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic

heterocyclic group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic heterocyclic group (these groups may be unsubstituted or may have a substituent(s)), a hydrogen atom, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group;

said compound not including the following compounds:

(i) compounds in which X is a group represented by the formula: -O- or -S-, and Z is pyrrolidin-3-yl having a substituent at the 4-position, piperidin-3-yl having a substituent at the 4-position, piperidin-4-yl having a substituent at the 3-position, homopiperidin-3-yl having a substituent at the 4-position, homopiperidin-4-yl having a substituent at the 5-position, or homopiperidin-4-yl having a substituent at the 3-position, said substituent of each of them being an oxo group, a hydroxyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyloxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkynyloxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyloxy group, an alkenyloxy group substituted by a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, an alkynyloxy group substituted by a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryloxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted acyloxy group, a benzyloxycarbonyloxy group, or an alkylcarbamoxyloxy group, and

(ii) compounds in which X is a group represented by the formula: -O-, and Z is a group represented by the formula:



wherein R^0 is a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted carbamoyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted thiocarbamoyl group,

a prodrug of said compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound or prodrug.

2. (original): A compound, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or prodrug according to claim 1, wherein X is a group represented by the formula: $-N(R^5)-$, $-C(=O)N(R^6)-$, $-CH_2N(R^5)-$, $-CH_2-$ or $-O-$.

3. (original): A compound, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or prodrug according to claim 1, wherein X is a group represented by the formula: $-N(R^5)-$.

4. (original): A compound, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or prodrug according to claim 1, wherein X is a group represented by the formula: $-O-$.

5. (original): A compound, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or prodrug according to claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein at least one of R^1 and R^3 is a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic heterocyclic group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic heterocyclic group (these groups may be unsubstituted or may have a substituent(s)), a halogen atom, a nitro group, a cyano group, a carboxyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkynyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxycarbonyl group,

a substituted or unsubstituted acyl group, or a group represented by the formula: $-OR^9$, $-N(R^{10})R^{11}$, $-C(=O)N(R^{10})R^{11}$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{10})R^{11}$ or $-S(O)_mR^{12}$.

6. (original): A compound, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or prodrug according to claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein at least one of R^2 and R^4 is a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic heterocyclic group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic heterocyclic group (these groups may be unsubstituted or may have a substituent(s)), a halogen atom, a nitro group, a cyano group, a carboxyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkynyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxycarbonyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted acyl group, or a group represented by the formula: $-OR^9$, $-N(R^{10})R^{11}$, $-C(=O)N(R^{10})R^{11}$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{10})R^{11}$ or $-S(O)_mR^{12}$.

7. (original): A compound, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or prodrug according to claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein each of R^1 and R^4 , which may be the same or different, or each of R^3 and R^2 , which may be the same or different, is a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic heterocyclic group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic heterocyclic group (these groups may be unsubstituted or may have a substituent(s)), a halogen atom, a nitro group, a cyano group, a carboxyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkynyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxycarbonyl group,

a substituted or unsubstituted acyl group, or a group represented by the formula: $-OR^9$, $-N(R^{10})R^{11}$, $-C(=O)N(R^{10})R^{11}$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{10})R^{11}$ or $-S(O)_mR^{12}$.

8. (currently amended): A compound, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or prodrug according to claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4, 5 or 7~~, wherein at least one of R^1 and R^3 is a group represented by the formula: $-OR^9$ or a halogen atom.

9. (currently amended): A compound, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or prodrug according to claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4, 5 or 7~~, wherein at least one of R^1 and R^3 is a methoxy group.

10. (currently amended): A compound, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or prodrug according to claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4, 5 or 7~~, wherein at least one of R^1 and R^3 is a fluorine atom.

11. (currently amended): A compound, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or prodrug according to claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4, 6 or 7~~, wherein at least one of R^2 and R^4 is a halogen atom.

12. (currently amended): A compound, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or prodrug according to claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4, 6 or 7~~, wherein at least one of R^2 and R^4 is a chlorine atom.

13. (currently amended): A compound, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or prodrug according to claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4 or 7~~, wherein R^1 is a group represented by the formula: $-OR^9$ or a halogen atom and R^4 is a halogen atom; or R^3 is a group represented by the formula: $-OR^9$ or a halogen atom and R^2 is a halogen atom.

14. (currently amended): A compound, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or prodrug according to claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4 or 7~~, wherein R¹ is a methoxy group and R⁴ is a chlorine atom; or R³ is a methoxy group and R² is a chlorine atom.

15. (currently amended): A compound, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or prodrug according to claim 1, ~~2, 3, 4 or 7~~, wherein R¹ is a fluorine atom and R⁴ is a chlorine atom; or R³ is a fluorine atom and R² is a chlorine atom.

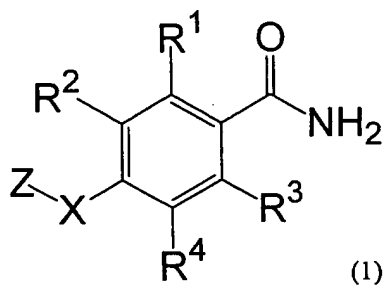
16. (currently amended): A compound, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or prodrug according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~claim 1, wherein Z is a substituted or unsubstituted saturated monocyclic heterocyclic group or a substituted saturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, and the substituent(s) of the saturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group is a group represented by the formula: -N(R^{Z1})R^{Z2} wherein R^{Z1} (or R^{Z1}s) and R^{Z2} (or R^{Z2}s), which may be the same or different, and are a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group, independently, when it exists more than one.

17. (original): A compound, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or prodrug according to claim 1, said compound being 4-[trans-(4-aminocyclohexyl)amino]-2-fluorobenzamide, 4-[trans-(4-aminocyclohexyl)- amino]-5-chloro-2-fluorobenzamide, 5-chloro-4-{{trans-4- (isopropylamino)cyclohexyl}amino}-2-methoxybenzamide, 4-[trans-(4-aminocyclohexyl)amino]-2,5-difluorobenzamide or 5-chloro-2-fluoro-4-(piperidin-4-ylamino)benzamide.

18. (currently amended): A medicament comprising a compound, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or prodrug according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 17~~claim 1.

19. (currently amended): A Rho kinase inhibitor comprising a compound, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or prodrug according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 17~~claim 1.

20. (original): A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of hypertension, peripheral circulatory disorder, angina pectoris, cerebral vasospasm, premature birth, asthma, cerebrovascular accident, arteriosclerosis, fibroid lung, fibroid liver, fibroid kidney, renal glomerulosclerosis, kidney failure, prostatic hypertrophy, complications of diabetes, blood vessel restenosis, cancer, cardiac hypertrophy, heart failure, ischemic diseases, inflammation, autoimmune diseases, AIDS, osteopathy, brain functional disorder, infection of digestive tracts with bacteria, sepsis, adult respiratory distress syndrome, retinopathy, glaucoma, or erectile dysfunction, which comprises a compound represented by formula (1):



wherein X is a single bond or a substituted or unsubstituted lower alkylene group (the -CH₂- group(s) of said lower alkylene group may be substituted by one or more groups which may be the same or different and are selected from groups represented by the formulas: -O-, -S(O)_n-, -N(R⁵)-, -N(R⁶)C(=O)-, -C(=O)N(R⁶)-, -N(R⁶)S(O)₂-, -S(O)₂N(R⁶)- and -C(=O)-, benzene ring and cycloalkane rings (the -CH₂- group(s) in said cycloalkane ring may be substituted by one or more groups which may be the same or different and are selected from groups represented by the formulas: -O-, -S-, -N(R⁷)- and -C(=O)-), and a combination(s) of any adjacent two carbon atoms of said lower alkylene group may form one or more double or triple bonds which may be the same or different);

Z is a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic heterocyclic group, or a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic heterocyclic group (these groups may be unsubstituted or may have a substituent(s));

each of R¹, R², R³ and R⁴, which may be the same or different, is a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic heterocyclic group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic heterocyclic group (these groups may be unsubstituted or may have a substituent(s)), a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a nitro group, a cyano group, a carboxyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkynyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxycarbonyl group,

a substituted or unsubstituted acyl group, or a group represented by the formula: $-OR^9$,
 $-N(R^{10})R^{11}$, $-C(=O)N(R^{10})R^{11}$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{10})R^{11}$ or $-S(O)_mR^{12}$;

n and m are independently 0, 1 or 2;

R^5 (or R^5 s) and R^7 (or R^7 s), which may be the same or different, and are a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic heterocyclic group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic heterocyclic group (these groups may be unsubstituted or may have a substituent(s)), a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted acyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy carbonyl group, or a group represented by the formula: $-C(=O)N(R^{10})R^{11}$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{10})R^{11}$ or $-S(O)_mR^{12}$, independently, when it exists more than one;

R^6 (or R^6 s) and R^9 (or R^9 s), which may be the same or different, and are a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic heterocyclic group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic heterocyclic group (these groups may be unsubstituted or may have a substituent(s)), a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted acyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy carbonyl group, independently, when it exists more than one;

R^{10} (or R^{10} s) and R^{11} (or R^{11} s), which may be the same or different, and are a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic heterocyclic group, a saturated or

unsaturated polycyclic heterocyclic group (these groups may be unsubstituted or may have a substituent(s)), a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted acyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxycarbonyl group, independently, when it exists more than one, or R^{10} and R^{11} , when taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded, represent a saturated 3- to 8-membered cyclic amino group which may contain other heteroatom(s) in the ring (said cyclic amino group may be substituted by one or more substituted or unsubstituted alkyl groups, $-S(O)_mR^{12}$ groups or $-OR^9$ groups); and

R^{12} is a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbon ring group, a saturated or unsaturated monocyclic heterocyclic group, a saturated or unsaturated polycyclic heterocyclic group (these groups may be unsubstituted or may have a substituent(s)), a hydrogen atom, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group;

said compound not including the following compounds:

compounds in which X is a group represented by the formula: $-O-$, and Z is pyrrolidin-3-yl having a substituent at the 4-position, said substituent being a hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group, a benzyloxycarbonyloxy group or an alkylcarbamoxyloxy group,

a prodrug of said compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound or prodrug.

21. (original): A method for treating hypertension, peripheral circulatory disorder, angina pectoris, cerebral vasospasm, premature birth, asthma, cerebrovascular accident, arteriosclerosis, fibroid lung, fibroid liver, fibroid kidney, renal glomerulosclerosis, kidney

failure, prostatic hypertrophy, complications of diabetes, blood vessel restenosis, cancer, cardiac hypertrophy, heart failure, ischemic diseases, inflammation, autoimmune diseases, AIDS, osteopathy, brain functional disorder, infection of digestive tracts with bacteria, sepsis, adult respiratory distress syndrome, retinopathy, glaucoma, or erectile dysfunction, which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or prodrug according to claim 20 to a patient who needs the treatment.

22. (original): Use of a compound, a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound or prodrug according to claim 20 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of hypertension, peripheral circulatory disorder, angina pectoris, cerebral vasospasm, premature birth, asthma, cerebrovascular accident, arteriosclerosis, fibroid lung, fibroid liver, fibroid kidney, renal glomerulosclerosis, kidney failure, prostatic hypertrophy, complications of diabetes, blood vessel restenosis, cancer, cardiac hypertrophy, heart failure, ischemic diseases, inflammation, autoimmune diseases, AIDS, osteopathy, brain functional disorder, infection of digestive tracts with bacteria, sepsis, adult respiratory distress syndrome, retinopathy, glaucoma, or erectile dysfunction.